



JULY 5, 2026

JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS

MATTHEW 9; MARK 2; LUKE 5

CHRIST CONNECTION

By forgiving the man's sins, Jesus revealed that He is God. Jesus has power to heal and forgive. Only through faith in Jesus can people be saved from their sins.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What did Jesus teach when he was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 5:16

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Jesus posed an intriguing question in today's passage: "Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?" We're presented with quite a few crises in this story: a man suffering from paralysis was carried into Jesus' presence by his friends, the house was too crowded to allow new guests, and the Jewish leaders watched it all unfold with cynical hearts. It appeared to be a lose-lose situation from every angle. As Jesus kept teaching, the men devised a plan to get their friend to the Healer while the scribes and Pharisees continued to cry blasphemy in their hearts.

Yet Jesus was demonstrating this truth to every person involved: He alone has the power to forgive sin. In this scriptural account, we see Jesus' authority—His power, ability, and willingness to intervene in the lives of God's people through their faith. Though the religious leaders in the crowd were unable to see the state of the paralyzed man's heart, they could witness Christ's power to physically heal.

When Jesus saw the friends' desperate, inventive, and faith-fueled means of bringing their friend to Him, He extended forgiveness to the man. However, Jesus' forgiveness was viewed as an overstepping of authority. After all, the Jews knew that only God has the right to forgive sins. The scribes and Pharisees believed it would be more difficult for Jesus to forgive the man than to heal him. To prove His power to accomplish both, Jesus extended forgiveness and physical healing to the man in need.

Jesus meets the needs of the humble and lowly. He recognized the faith of the men who took such a great risk to deliver their friend at His feet. They believed they could boldly approach the one with the power to heal.

Lead the kids in your class this week to see that the Jesus in this story is the same Lord who desires to forgive their sins today! Ask the Lord to go before you as you bring children to Him by teaching them His Word. May they trust in Him by faith, believing in His authority and desire to heal and save them also.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to large group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or practice the memory verse!

MEMORY VERSE

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's memory verse folder to review the verse with the kids.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on July 26!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in large group.

JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS

Jesus returned to Capernaum, and news spread that He was back in town. So many people gathered to hear Jesus teach God's Word that there was no more room in the house.

While Jesus was teaching, four men came to the house carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher. But the men could not bring their friend to Jesus because of the crowd.

So, they carried the paralyzed man up to the roof and dug a hole through the roof. They lowered the mat on which the man was lying through the roof. Jesus saw their faith, and said to the paralytic man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

But some of the religious leaders heard this, and they thought to themselves, "Why would Jesus say this? Doesn't He know that no one can forgive sins but God?"

Jesus knew what these leaders were thinking. He said, "Why are you thinking these things to yourself? Which is easier to say to this paralyzed man? 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk?'"

Then, to show that He had the power to heal and to forgive sins, Jesus turned to the man and said, "I tell you, get up, take your mat, and go home."

Immediately the man got up, picked up his mat, and left in front of everyone. The people were amazed and gave glory to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

CHRIST CONNECTION: By forgiving the man's sins, Jesus revealed that He is God. Jesus has power to heal and forgive. Only through faith in Jesus can people be saved from their sins.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after large group.

ACTIVITY: MAT OBSTACLE COURSE

Do this in the large group room with other grades!

Set up the provided cones/items around the room to create an obstacle course. Split kids into groups of five. If the groups don't split evenly into five each, then allow some kids to play on multiple teams.

Give each team a blanket/towel for one of the kids to sit on so the other four can carry them. Have the groups line up. On their turn, each team will go around the obstacle course, four kids carrying the one on the blanket/towel, as fast as they can. Use your phone timer to keep track of each group's time. The fastest time wins!

CONNECT THE DOTS



The paralyzed man couldn't get to Jesus on his own. His friends believed that Jesus could heal him, so they did everything they could to get him to Jesus. Jesus not only healed his body, but also forgave his sins—something only God can do!

BIBLE SKILLS: FORGIVENESS VERSES

Split kids into groups of three or four. Give each group a Bible and assign them one of the following verses about forgiveness to look up:

- Psalm 86:5
- Psalm 103:12
- Romans 3:23
- Ephesians 1:7
- Ephesians 4:32
- 1 John 1:9

Encourage the groups to look up their verse and discuss what it teaches about forgiveness. Then, after a few minutes of small group discussion, allow the groups to share their verses and what they learned with the class.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. Is sickness the result of sin in our lives?
2. Is Jesus' offer of forgiveness for everyone?
3. Why were the religious leaders angry at Jesus?
4. What are some creative ways you can help someone in your life?
5. How can you share the good news of Jesus with others?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!